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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COLLINS of Georgia].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 23, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for 5 minutes.

### OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to United States foreign policy, the deteriorating situation in Haiti is one of those news items that has been crowded off the front pages by bigger problems elsewhere, problems like the breakdown of the peace process in Ireland, the mending of fences with Mr. Netanyahu, and the Mujahidin's new foothold in the Balkans. But even so, just because it suits the White House for Haiti to be out of sight, it does not mean that it is out of mind for those of us who are interested in accounting for

\$3 billion in United States taxpayers' dollars the White House has spent there and those of us who are concerned about the safety of Americans and American interests in Haiti.

Because of the very special relationship between my south Florida district and Haiti, my office follows the reports and stays in touch with our contacts on the ground in Haiti. How are things going? The short answer is that there is slippage, steep slippage; a strong sense, based on events, that things in Haiti have degenerated again very rapidly. We are finding a seemingly endless litany that suggests a serious breakdown in law and order. We find institutional inadequacy, particularly in the judicial area, and serious retreat from any economic progress at all. We find no relief from the grinding poverty that is everywhere in Haiti.

Taken together this seems to prove what informed observers have said all along; that is, that throwing \$3 billion and 20,000 American troops haphazardly at Haiti is not the way to bridge the deep divisions of Haitian society or to promote lasting gains on the slow path to democracy there. Divisions are deepening. Destabilization campaigns appear to be coming from all sectors across the social spectrum. The time for settling old scores and even new ones appears to have arrived and get even acts of violence and intimidation are the daily menu. The victims include former members of the military, the police, and innocent civilians. In fact, it is sad but true that the Haitian national police have participated in more than their share of altercations. Recall that this was supposed to be a hope of future law and order, that new Haitian national police, but the most damning assessments of police behavior have been coming from the Washington office on Latin America and the OAS mission in Haiti. The latest OAS report notes summary executions and allegations of ill treatment

including beatings and routine use of electric shock treatment on prisoners in a Port-au-Prince police station. No place to get a parking ticket.

While these incidents are protested, the OAS also reports that the Inspector General has failed to take action against the police, giving some sectors of the Haitian population the view that the police agents enjoy the same impunity as the members of the old armed forces and former regime enjoyed. This wins the police no friends, and in some areas the police have literally been run out of town by local populations. In fact, there have been some 10 assassinations of investigators of the police, most of them off duty.

There are some other tough issues that we are not hearing much about but that clearly deserve some attention. One should ask the White House how the American citizens in Haiti who have borne the brunt of some of the violent acts are faring. Murders and kidnaping have apparently gone unanswered or uninvestigated.

Taken together, all of this adds up to instability, growing instability. It might also go a long way toward explaining why the Clinton administration went through such machinations to badger our allies to extend the U.N. mission through the month of November, the same month as the election month in our country.

Dismal as it is, law and order is only part of the stability equation. The other part of this equation is prosperity. We are long overdue for an update from the White House on the privatization process of Haiti. We understand from the media that the Parliament is having difficulty gaining a quorum to hold a vote on reform measures. Why? There are good reasons. Lack of will is one, but fear is another, brought on by threats from some of the left-leaning segments of the Haitian society and the drumbeat of opposition raised by former President Aristide.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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